Claims

1. An endoscopic accessory control system comprising:

an endoscopic accessory operating distal portion;

a control sheath extending proximally from the operating device; and

a control handle joined to the free end of the control sheath and being configured to be mounted to an endoscope shaft between its proximal and distal ends.

2. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 1 wherein the control handle is slidably mountable to an endoscope shaft.

3. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 1 wherein the control handle is removably mountable to an endoscope shaft.

4. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 1 wherein the control sheath extends externally of the endoscope shaft when the operative element and control handle are mounted to the endoscope.

5. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 3 wherein the control handle is also slidable relative to the control sheath while remaining operatively connected to a proximal end of the control sheath.

6. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 3 wherein the control handle is configured to be mounted laterally onto the endoscope shaft.

7. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 6 wherein the control handle is configured to have a plurality of downwardly extending and curved forks that define a circumferential pathway through which and endoscope shaft may be slidably passed.

8. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 1 wherein the control handle is configured to be comfortably grasped together by a user's hand with a portion of an associated endoscope shaft.

9. An endoscopic accessory control system as defined in claim 1 further comprising: at least two control elements for operating at least two functions of the endoscopid accessory operative device distal portion.

10. A method operating an endoscope and medical device accessory comprising:

providing an endoscope having proximal and distal ends and user controls at the proximal end and an endoscopic accessory and accessory control system externally mountable to the endoscope,

using one hand to operate endoscope controls at the proximal end of the endoscope

using the other hand to operate the accessory control positioned on the endoscope shaft between the proximal and distal ends of the shaft.

11. A method operating an endoscope and medical device accessory as defined in claim 7 further comprising:

controlling the movement of the endoscope shaft with the hand that operates the accessory control.

12. A method operating an endoscope and medical device accessory as defined in claim 7 further comprising:

repositioning the accessory control along the endoscope shaft.